

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were pending at the time of the Office Action. Claims 2, 8-9, 11, and 22, are amended. Claims 1, 12-17, and 23-28 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-11, 18-22 and 29-39 are pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of subject application. In the Office Action dated January 12, 2007 claims 11-16, 20-27, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b); and claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 18-19, and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 2, 17, and 18 were acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 33-38 were allowed.

Claim 1 was canceled.

Claim 2 has been amended to place the claim in independent form. The amendment includes all the limitations of claim 1 (the base claim). Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection of claim 2. Claims 3-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 2. Consequently, Applicant requests allowance of claims 2-10.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 12 and 15-17. Thus, claim 11 contains all of the limitations of claim 17, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claims 18-21 depend directly or indirectly from claim 11. Therefore, Applicant requests allowance of claims 11 and 18-21.

Claims 12-17 were canceled.

Claim 22 was amended to include the limitations of claims 23 and 26-28. Thus claim 22 contains all the limitations of claim 28, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claims 29-32 depend directly or indirectly from claim 22. Therefore, Applicant requests allowance of claims 22 and 29-32.

Claims 33-38 were allowed.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 2-11, 18-22 and 29-39 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 1/31/2007

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